



# **Unit Voting Program**

**Lt Dan Ward, 30 SW WSA UVAO**

# Overview

- Role of the UVAO
- General Election Info
- Voting Assistance Info
- Voting Requirements
- Absentee Voting Process
- Summary

# UVAOs are here to help YOU!

- ✓ **To assist all members of the DoD, and their Dependents with Local, State, and Federal elections by 100% one-on-one contact**
- ✓ **Election Forms And Online Assistance**
- ✓ **Election Dates And Where To Vote (if Local)**
- ✓ **Get information on Parties, Proposals, Etc.**
- ✓ **Assist those who don't understand the material (to include Language Barriers)**
- ✓ **Assist those who need help determining there legal state of residence**
- ✓ **Assist the Installation Voting Assistance Officer (IVAO) with Armed Forces Voters Week and completing the After-Action Report**

# Be Smart, Do Your Part, VOTE!

- In 2010, elections will be held for:



36 U.S. Senators



435 U.S. Representatives



Thousands of State/Local Offices and  
Questions/Referenda



# Military Voting Assistance

- Armed Forces Voters Week (28 Jun – 7 Jul 10)
  - Voting assistance activities and registration drives across Vandenberg
    - Look for booths with voting information!
- Absentee Voting Week (27 Sep – 4 Oct 10)
  - Absentee voters should return their completed ballot immediately, to meet state deadlines
  - Or, for those who have not received their ballot, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot





# Voting Requirements

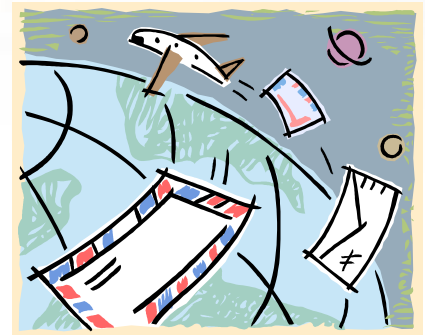
- All states and territories have two basic voter requirements:
  - A voter must be a U.S. citizen, and;
  - At least 18 years old on election day in order to vote (some states permit a 17-year old to vote in primary election if he or she will be 18 by the date of the general election)

\*Younger citizens (18-24) have statistically lower voter participation rates



# The Absentee Voting Process

- The absentee voting process permits citizens, who will be away from their local polling places on election day, to register, request a ballot, and vote through the mail (or an alternative method if allowed by the state)
- In order to receive a ballot in a timely manner, it is very important that citizens keep their local election officials informed of address changes



# The Absentee Voting Process

**Step 1: Citizen submits a voter registration/absentee ballot request form**

**Step 2: Local Election Official approves the request or asks for more information**

**Step 3: Local Election Official mails the absentee ballot**

**Step 4: Citizen votes and returns the ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines**

**OR**

**If insufficient time exists to receive, vote and return the ballot on time, he/she submits the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**



# The Absentee Voting Process

## Registration and Ballot Request

- The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is a postage-paid postcard for use by absentee voters available through your Unit Voting Assistance Officer
- The On-Line Version of the FPCA (OFPCA) is an alternative to the card stock FPCA, available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)
- Unit Voting Assistance Officers can help you fill out the FPCA

# The Absentee Voting Process

## Registration and Ballot Request

- Voting Residence:
  - Each voter must have a legal residence address in a state or territory to vote in U.S. elections
  - Final determinations on issues of voting residence are made by the local election officials
  - Voters should provide as much information as possible on the FPCA to help ensure successful registration and ballot request
  - Always check with legal counsel if you have questions about legal residence



# The Absentee Voting Process

## Registration and Ballot Request

- Voting Residence:
  - For members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, legal voting residence (in most states) is defined as where the citizen has, or has had, physical presence at the location and where there is intent to remain or return
  - A voter may only have one legal residency at a time
  - Once residence is changed, a voter may not revert to the previous residence without re-establishing new physical presence and intent to remain or return
  - Factors to consider in determining correct voting residence:
    - What is the address on your leave and earnings statement?
    - Where have you registered to vote?
    - Where is your vehicle registered?
    - Where was your driver's license or state I.D. card issued?

# The Absentee Voting Process

## Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

- If you do not receive a ballot in time to return it by the state's deadline, you may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)
- The FWAB is a back-up or "emergency" ballot that can be used in general elections for Federal offices
- Ask your Unit Voting Assistance Officer for a FWAB or find it online at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)



# The Absentee Voting Process

## Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

- To be eligible to use the FWAB, citizens must meet three specific requirements:
  - (1) Be a Uniformed Service member (or eligible family member), or a U.S. Citizen overseas (including APO/FPO)
  - (2) The citizen's request for a regular ballot was received by the local election official at least 30 days before the election or before the state's ballot request deadline, whichever is later
  - (3) The citizen did not receive the requested regular absentee ballot from the state

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